

***Remarks***

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1, 3-9, and 11 are pending in the application, with claim 1 being the sole independent claim. Claims 1, 3-9, and 11 are sought to be amended. Claims 2, 10, and 12-14 were previously cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Claims 15-20 are sought to be cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein as being directed to a non-elected Group. Applicant reserves the right to prosecute similar or broader claims, with respect to the cancelled and amended claims, in the future. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

***Response to Restriction Requirement***

In reply to the restriction requirement in the Office Action dated January 7, 2009, requesting an election of one Group to prosecute in the above-referenced patent application, Applicant hereby provisionally elects to prosecute Group I, represented by claims 1, 3-9, and 11. This election is made without prejudice to or disclaimer of the other claims or embodiments disclosed.

This election is made without traverse.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement, and consideration and allowance of all pending claims, are respectfully requested.

***Conclusion***

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested. Applicant believes the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

Jason D. Eisenberg  
Attorney for Applicant  
Registration No. 43,447

Date: 2/9/09

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934  
(202) 371-2600  
931244\_1.DOC